



Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

May 2025



Tuesday Lunch – April 8th

When Dan and his people cook, it's not just a meal, it's a performance piece. It's a happening. And it happened here.



L-R: Martin Thisner, Bob Burrows, Tiffany Knief and Dan Freeman



Tiffany Knief and Martin Thisner showing off.



Bob Burrows and Tucker Spolter (and the food) showing off

The Moroccan Chicken and vegetables, potatoes, Greek salad, and hors d'oeuvres were terrific, but the presentation was simply amazing. Thanks to Dan and his crew!



Message from the President

Bill Madsen *(in case you forgot...)*



Native Son of the Month: Mike Shea



If you cook a lunch *and* a dinner in the same week you qualify automatically for Native Son of the Month.

Mike exemplifies the can-do, helpful attitude we associate with our parlor's old guard. (I'm not saying he's old, just that he exemplifies the attitude.) Plus, he's just a super nice guy. We're lucky to have him as a member. Thanks, Mike, for being you!

New Committee: Women of the NSGW

1st VP Eric Bowen and I met with some of our sister members after Eric pointed out that over the last year, nearly 30% of our new members have been women.

We thought it was a good time to check in with them to learn about their Parlor experiences and see what we can do to ensure their continued participation in the Parlor.

We discussed a variety of topics and were pleased to find that our sisters were looking for opportunities to get involved, that they have a variety of skillsets that could really benefit the Parlor, and that they have great attitudes and an abundance of good sense.

We talked about recruitment, Parlor etiquette, and the delicate balance of getting involved as a small minority in a well-established Order.

We all felt that having a women's committee would be beneficial and decided to begin holding regular meetings.

For anyone interested in joining the next meeting, please email me at ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net

FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR 2025

- Wed., May 7 – **Visiting Brothers Night** Dinner 7pm Bar opens at 6
- Tue., May 13 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- May 19 – 22 – **Grand Parlor:** (Stockton)
- Tue., May 27 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed., June 4 – Business Meeting, 7pm Bar opens at 6.
- Tue., June 10 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Sat. June 14 – **Fairfax Festival Parade**
- Wed., June 18 – President's Dinner, 7:30 p.m. Bar opens at 6.
- Tue., June 24 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30

April Lamb Feed

Photos by Chris Wand

The Set-Up Crew



L-R: Chris Wand, Don Cronk, Burt Winn, Chuck Trimble, Matt Marcucci, Lou Langlamet, Kevin Courtz, Fred Schwab and... Joel Bantly

The Cooks



Dan Trimble & Larry Nilson

Dan Trimble, Mike Shea and Larry Nilson

Connor and Dominic Trimble & Mike Shea



Thanks to Dan Hanley, Dave Cronin, Chris Reilly & Stan Rowan for their help (they all disappeared when the camera came out.) And thanks to everyone who contributed to the raffle to help our Grand Trustee Burt Winn with his re-election campaign. A great night!

New Members

On Tuesday, April 8th, we obligated two new members, Liz Fagan and Michael Stern. Junior Past President Marcucci presided with assistance from Recording Secretary Courtz, Treasurer Reilly, and Trustees Bantly and Langlamet.



Liz Fagan with JPP Matt Marcucci

New Applicants for Membership

The following four candidates have applied for membership in Fairfax Parlor and will be voted on at our June 4th meeting.

Sean Boyd, San Rafael
 Scott Kreinberg, Fairfax
 Nikko Lubinski, Fairfax
 Jeff Stump, Kentfield
 Creek Van Houten, San Anselmo
 Monica Whooley, Fairfax

Tuesday Lunch – April 22nd

Just six days after serving nearly a hundred members at our April Lamb feed, Mike Shea was back at it again with platters of juicy ham, sauteed string beans, and a tasty salad.

A stellar crew, a stellar meal, a stellar day!



L-R: Dan Hanley, Mike Shea and Fred Schwab

FAIRFAX PARLOR OFFICERS, 2025

President – Bill Madsen	1 st VP – Eric Bowen
2 nd VP – Chris Wand	3 rd VP – Diego Garcia
Treasurer – Chris Reilly	Financial Secretary – Rick Holland
Recording Secretary – Kevin Courtz	
Newsletter Editor – Bill Madsen	ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net
Website Manager – Chris Wand	chrisnativesons@proton.me

Fairfax Wandering Marshal

Lou Langlamet

The *Meet Your Neighbors Social* has been going on for 20+ years, It's an opportunity to meet new Native Sons and Native Daughters in Marin and Sonoma counties and also catch-up with old friends. It moves around every year – this year it was at Sam's Place in Novato.



Many parlors were represented Santa Rosa, Petaluma Nicosia, Napa, Vallejo, Stockton and of course Fairfax. There were also many Grand Officers passed and present. It's a nice way to meet the people you have read or heard about and yes office staff Tom and Lexi were there also.



The *Butter and Egg Festival and Parade* in Petaluma was a lot of fun. Five parlors were there supporting Petaluma-Nicasio Parlor by carrying the American flag. Escorted by two Jeeps, we were gratified to have the crowd waving and saluting and cheering us on as we passed.

You're never too old to learn something new. For instance; Petaluma has a store that makes and sells Port Wine. In the wharf area a friendly lady invited us in to taste Port-au-Port slushies which were a pleasant surprise, so naturally we bought a bottle. Now, where did we park?



May Birthdays

May 1st: Bernard Chapman (29)
May 3rd: Mark Biggins (1)
May 4th: William Mitchell (26)
May 7th: Kevin Courtz (47!!), Jared Tanamachi (9)
May 8th: Donald Kavanaugh (5), Louis Leoncini (40!!),
Robert Testa (21)
May 9th: Stanley Loar (20), Ronald Santa Cruz (29)
May 14th: Paul Fradelizio (38!)
May 15th: James Codoni (30!) Anthony Lofrano (8)
Mikeal Martin (35!)
May 17th: Lawrence Dickinson (33!)
May 19th: Ralph Daigle (1), David Greenblat (21)
May 20th: Mark Barone (17), Eugene Giuliani (42!!)
May 22nd: Steve Donnellan (40!!), Vincent Sheehan (30!)
May 24th: George Alboff (34!), Todd Schopp (16)
May 25th: Scott Smith (26)
May 26th: Harley Miller (29)
May 27th: John Guy (23)
May 28th: John Moore (30!), Chris Wand Jr. (2),
Stephen Warner (44!!)

Parlor Stock Fund

The Fairfax Parlor Stock Fund balance is currently \$334,000. To ensure good communication regarding the use of funds from the Parlor Stock Fund, our Parlor voted to adopt a new policy at the April business meeting to inform Parlor members in advance before any funds are withdrawn from the Parlor Stock Fund.

To fulfill this obligation, we will use this section of the newsletter to keep Parlor members up to date on the Parlor Stock Fund.

As we do not have a Parlor business meeting in May (only Visiting Brothers night) there will be no request to transfer funds in May.

Check Out These Other Events

May 26th: Noon NSGW & NDGW Memorial Day Observance, WWI Doughboy Statue, Golden Gate Park, SF (Parking & Shuttle from Stow Lake Boathouse)

Aug 2-10th: Lotts Lake Work Party Week, Lotts Lake, Plumas County. More Info: Dan Foppe - dnrtermite@gmail.com

The Impossibility of Owning Anything

1960's Poverty in North Beach

By Chris Wand

Many of the really old sculptors and painters we knew around North Beach told us how they had come to San Francisco during the Depression. Some got wonderful jobs creating artwork, like the murals inside of Coit Tower for Roosevelt's WPA.

Because of the shortage of money, they were able to rent apartments or shacks on Telegraph Hill for next to nothing. Smart ones bought their places. They got to stay put with space in which to sculpt or paint, hidden gardens to have parties in, sweeping views of the bay and the ability to make money renting out units to new arrivals.

A fine potter told us how he ended up in Sausalito and later Mill Valley, "All these guys came back from the war. They got interest free G.I. Bill loans to buy property. The remaining cheap rental places around the 'Hill were bought up and renters were kicked out."

Some of these San Francisco exiles discovered that for \$3,000, you could buy a broken-down cottage in Sausalito. So that became the new cheap place to buy or rent.

Many of the Beatniks we knew were students at SF State, U.C. Berkeley or the Art Institute. Their tuition often paid by the G.I. Bill after Korea. Art departments at these schools grew as money poured in. Some of the old artists got well-paying easy jobs in these schools, could retire and have a pension for life.

Then, starting in the late 1950s, there were again lots of

cheap rentals in the city because many of the mostly Italian property owners had moved out of North Beach to the desirable new suburbs in Westlake, Daly City or San Rafael where they could grow tomatoes and had a driveway to park their new cars on.



In comparison to these new places, North Beach was foolishly considered almost a slum. Those still owing property needed tenants, so they would even rent to Beatniks. Plus there were all the hundreds of residential hotels around town left over from the Panama Pacific Exposition in 1915. Our friend Colonel Wally, wounded on Iwo Jima got to live in a 10' x 15' room with a sink in the corner to piss in and bathroom down the hall.

By the time we got to San Francisco in the late 1950s, it was impossible for us to afford to buy property anywhere so we would have to rent for the rest of our lives. We were stuck in our little charming cottage, or shack, as schoolmates called it, because as Ma said, "It was charming, cheap and close to everything."



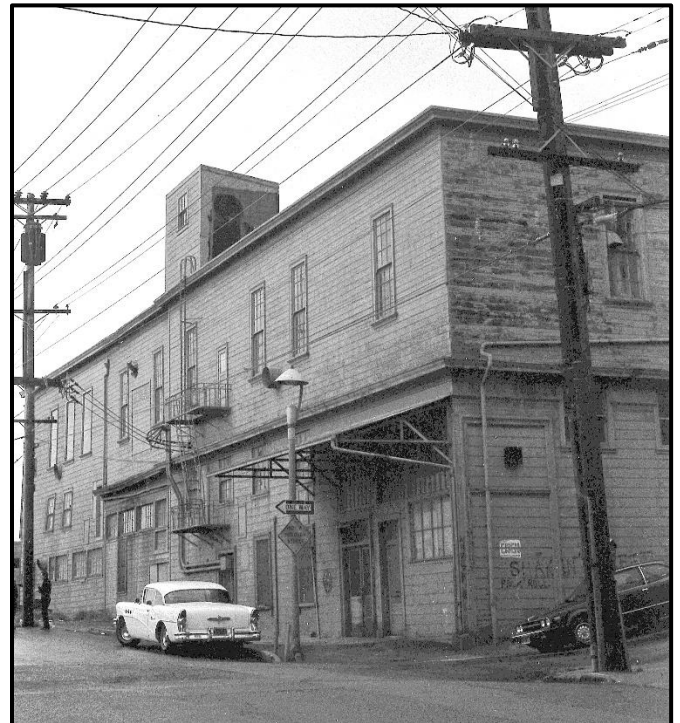
It was the cheap rents that made North Beach, Sausalito and parts of Berkeley good places for artists and cool people to live. Lots of derelict surplus industrial spaces and shops were available around The City. You could rent an inexpensive old commercial space, live in it, make art and sell your work and live by your own schedule. A couple of sculptors we knew lived in a storefront on Green and Kearny for \$45 a month.



Katrina, a girl in my third grade class, lived on upper Grant Avenue. Her Longshoreman father rented out part of their basement, accessed from the ground floor passage where the utility meters hung. A small storage area on the uphill side of this corridor became a rental. He dug down to the sewer and stubbed in a toilet. He covered the bare sloping dirt and sandstone floor with an old Persian carpet. Ivy grew through the broken window at the sidewalk level. It had a hot plate. He rented it for fifty dollars a month to students at the Art Institute, delighted to get in so near the

action in North Beach. Their address was the same as Katrina's apartment's upstairs, but with a "1/2" added to it.

Friends rented long 12-foot-wide "railroad apartments," all built after the 1906 earthquake, where several generations of Italian families had once lived. There were two apartments per floor in the typical 25-foot-wide buildings arranged side by side up and down the hills. The living room, with bay windows, and the dining and bedrooms looking onto a light well, and even the back porch became individual living quarters sharing a crowded bathroom and kitchen. Messages to other roommates were scotch-taped to the icebox and windows were full of potted plants. Curtains made of blankets, coffee sacks or sheets divided big rooms in half. All was chaotic. Sometimes roommates could stay for as little as a dollar a day. As industry fled our part of town for South City or the East Bay, surplus factory buildings and warehouses became available, like an old garage, or the macaroni factory at the dead end of Chestnut at Grant, where wooden stairs dropped down to the waterfront by an old abandoned restaurant that friends lived in.



Ma was always pointing these places out to me and talking about all the windows and the light and how much space we could have. The notion that North Beach was cheap, bohemian and thus easy to live in, was so strong that people were willing to pay a higher rent to live there than we could, which seemed ironic

As Ma said, life for some was fun, inexpensive and interesting. It all made sense except for how to sweat the rent without getting a good paying union job on the waterfront, or in some industrial plant where they paid good wages. Impossible for her, and I was too young. We stayed in our shack and lived the good life in the middle of the action until we eventually got evicted for inability to pay rent.

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